

Business rules for the portal newsfeed—v0.2

1) Location:

Proposed:

While not required, we recommend that each portal newsfeed should be located in an "XML" (or "xml") folder under the agency's root folder and should be named "newsfeed.xml" (or .asp or .jsp. As long as it validates).

Rationale:

The RSS file should be located in the same place on all sites and should have a common name. This will make maintenance easier in the future. By naming the file "newsfeed.xml" instead of "rss.xml", we give the agencies some flexibility to develop other RSS files (perhaps in RSS 0.91) for other audiences.

The "XML" folder gives each agency a standard location for other XML files that may be shared between agencies or other entities (like businesses).

2) RSS Fields

<channel> <title>

(This topic still needs discussion.)

The title field in the newsfeed should reflect the name of the agency. For instance, the Insurance title should be "Missouri Department of Insurance News" and not "MDI News".

Rationale:

Once a newsfeed is published, it can be read by any news reader. It is important to give the feed a title that fully describes the file. Acronyms of agency names may confuse some users.

<item> <link/guid>

The link or guid field should go to the agency's news page and not necessarily to the agency's home page, unless the agency home page is the main news page.

Rationale

The idea here is to get users to your news page, not to your home page. They will be able to get to your home page easily enough from your news archives.

<item><pubDate>

The date must meet the RSS standard for date formats. All pubDates must use the following format:

Sun, 01 Jun 2003 13:01:55 GMT

where “Sun” is the three-letter abbreviation for the day of the week, the date is in “dd mmm yyyy” format, and the time of the posting is stamped. The “GMT” means “Greenwich Mean Time”, although you could use “CST” or “CDT” for “Central Standard

Time” or “Central Daylight Time”.

3) Validation

Your newsfeed must validate to RSS 2.0 standards.

An RSS 2.0 validator is available at

- <http://feeds.archive.org/validator>

You are also encouraged to view your newsfeed using a newsreader. There are several free newsreaders available, including:

- [Amphetadesk](#) (requires perl)
- [Aggreg8](#) (for Mozilla/Netscape 7)
- [feedreader](#) (for Windows only)
- [NetNewswire Lite](#) (Mac OS only)

Rationale

If it doesn't validate, it doesn't get published.

4) Getting your newsfeed on the Missouri portal

Send an e-mail to oawebmaster@mail.ia.state.mo.us with the location of the newsfeed in your webspace.

5) Other newsfeeds

It is possible to have other newsfeeds from your news page as well as a newsfeed just for the state portal. For example, Conservation could have a special newsfeed for hunters or landowners. These newsfeeds would have a different name than the feed for the state portal, and may use a different format, such as RSS 0.91 or RSS 1.0. RSS 0.91 is the most basic and the one most commonly used.

These newsfeeds would NOT be picked up by the state portal.